

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 have been rejected.

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the recitation of "at least one receptacle", and then subsequent use of "each receptacle" was confusing. Since the embodiment having one receptacle is patentably distinct, however, and to avoid confusion, claim 1 and 7 have been modified to simply recite "a receptacle", and "said receptacle".

In addition the Examiner found the method of claim 9 to be unclear. Unfortunately, claim 9 was intended to depend on claim 8. Claim 9 has been amended to now depend from claim 7. This should obviate both the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 9-11, and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) of claims 9-11.

Please remove the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

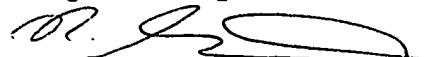
Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,350,373 to Colligan. Claims 2-6 and 8 would be allowable, however, if

rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 8, respectively. Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 3 has been amended to now depend from claim 1. Accordingly, please remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1 and 7, and enter the allowance of claims 1, 7, and depending claims 3-6.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,943,765 to Shikakubo. Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shikakubo in view of United States Patent no. 4,538,443 to Gooding. As previously mentioned, claim 9 now depends from claim 7, which is allowable. Accordingly, claim 9 and depending claims 10 and 11 should be allowable as depending upon an allowable base claim. Please enter the allowance of claims 9-11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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